

**ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE**

An optical modulation element includes a liquid crystal layer, white light source, and at least one flat mirror. The liquid crystal layer has a helix pitch and is held between a pair of transparent substrates having opposing transparent electrodes. The white light source sends white light onto a surface of one of the transparent substrates of the liquid crystal layer in an oblique direction. The flat mirror is arranged outside the other one of the transparent substrates to reflect the incident light transmitted through the liquid crystal layer toward the light source.

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